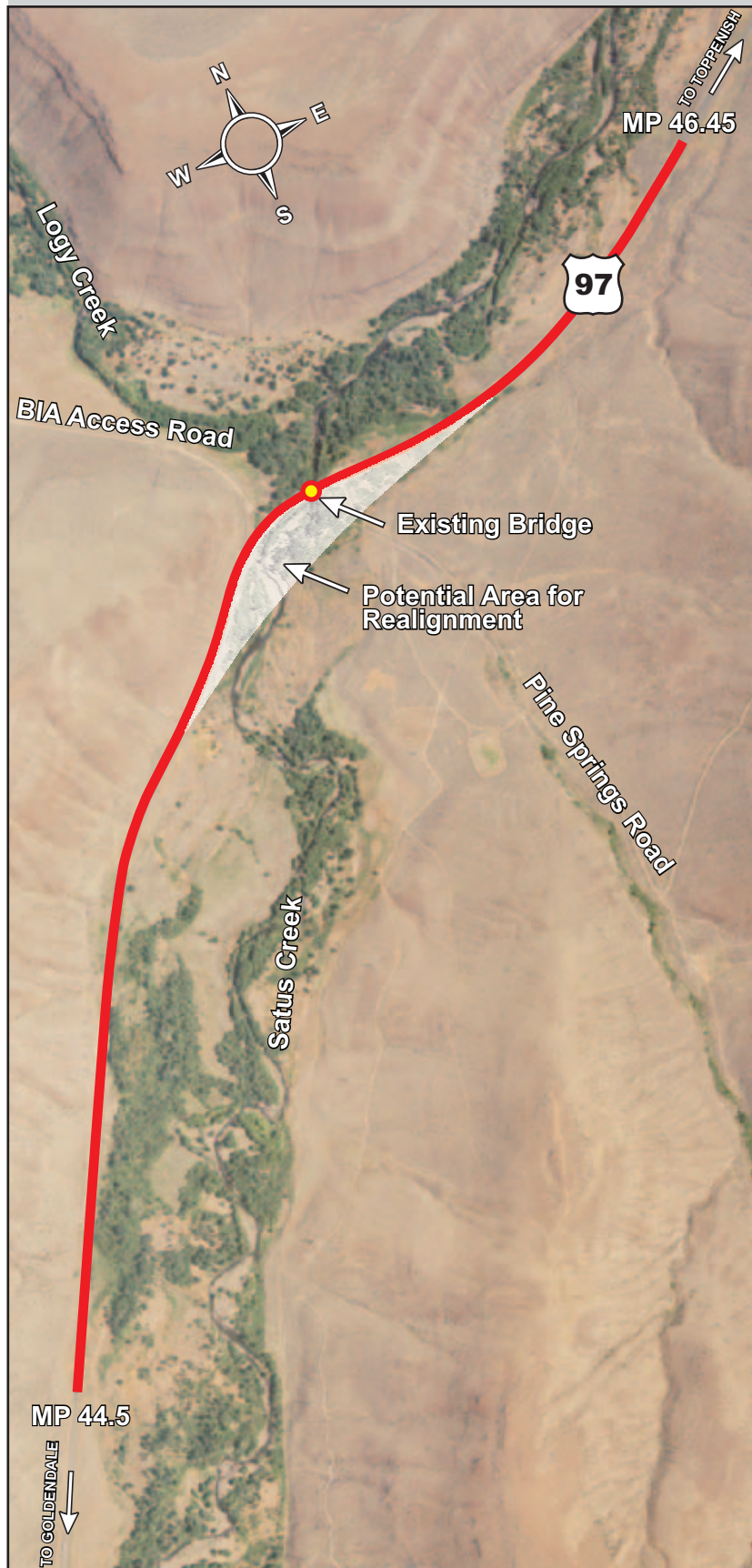


US 97 – Satus Creek Bridge 97/106 Bridge Replacement and Safety Enhancement

Project Limits



This southbound view from the existing Satus Creek Bridge shows a typical situation with truck traffic and poor sight distance.



Side view of existing Satus Creek Bridge.

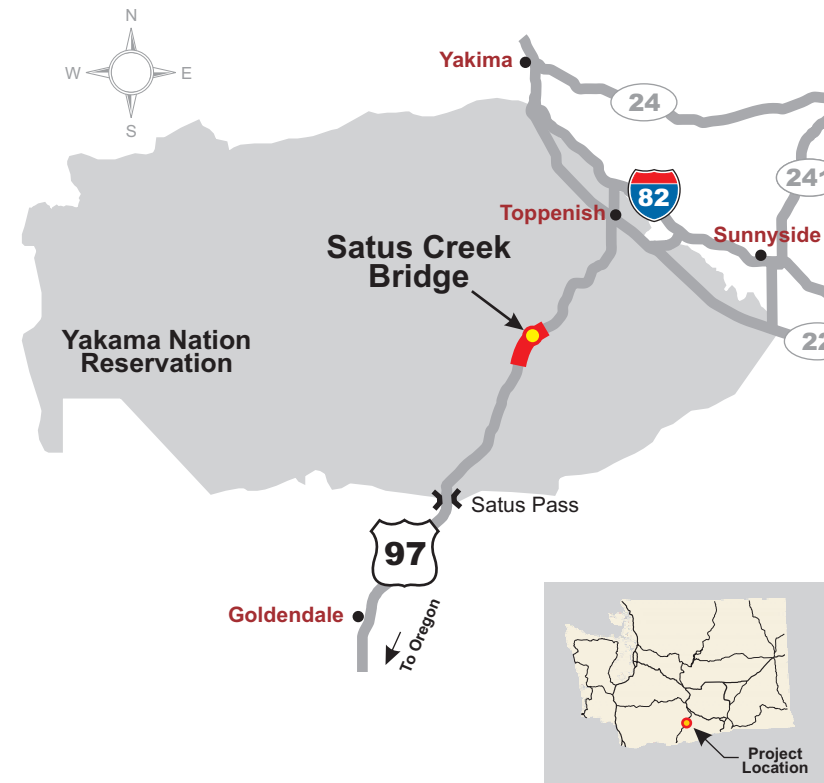
For More Information

WSDOT – South Central Region
Troy Suing, Project Engineer
P.O. Box 12560
Yakima, WA 98909-2560
Phone – (509) 577-1703
E-mail – Suingt@wsdot.wa.gov
www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/us97/SatusCreekBridge/



Washington State
Department of Transportation

US 97 – Satus Creek Bridge 97/106 Bridge Replacement and Safety Enhancement



Project Description

WSDOT will construct a new bridge and straighten US 97 to increase motorist safety. The existing bridge will be removed.

Why is WSDOT replacing Satus Creek Bridge and realigning US 97?

Replacing the bridge with a wider, longer structure and straightening the highway will improve safety and allow larger loads to use this route.

The existing Satus Creek bridge was constructed in 1942. It is very narrow, and overweight loads are restricted from crossing it.

This section of US 97 has a history of accident problems. The existing curve is substandard with a recommended safe speed of 55 mph, while the posted speed limit for the highway is 65 mph. Sight distance is also limited because of the curve. It is difficult to see oncoming traffic from two highway access points at this location.

Along with replacing the bridge and realigning the highway, WSDOT will correct other problems including narrow shoulders, deteriorating pavement, and hazards near the edge of the roadway.

Project Cost Estimate

Total: \$10 million
(Includes engineering, right-of-way, and construction costs)

Construction Timeline

Scheduled start: Spring 2009
Scheduled completion: Late 2010

Planned Partnerships

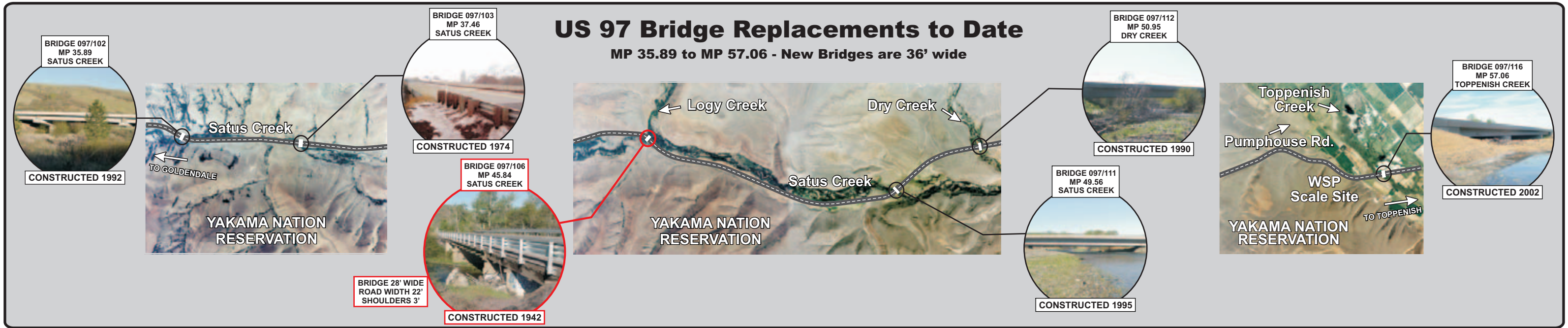
WSDOT is working with the Yakama Nation to complete the project environmental reports. WSDOT will also work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs during project design and construction.

What has been done so far?

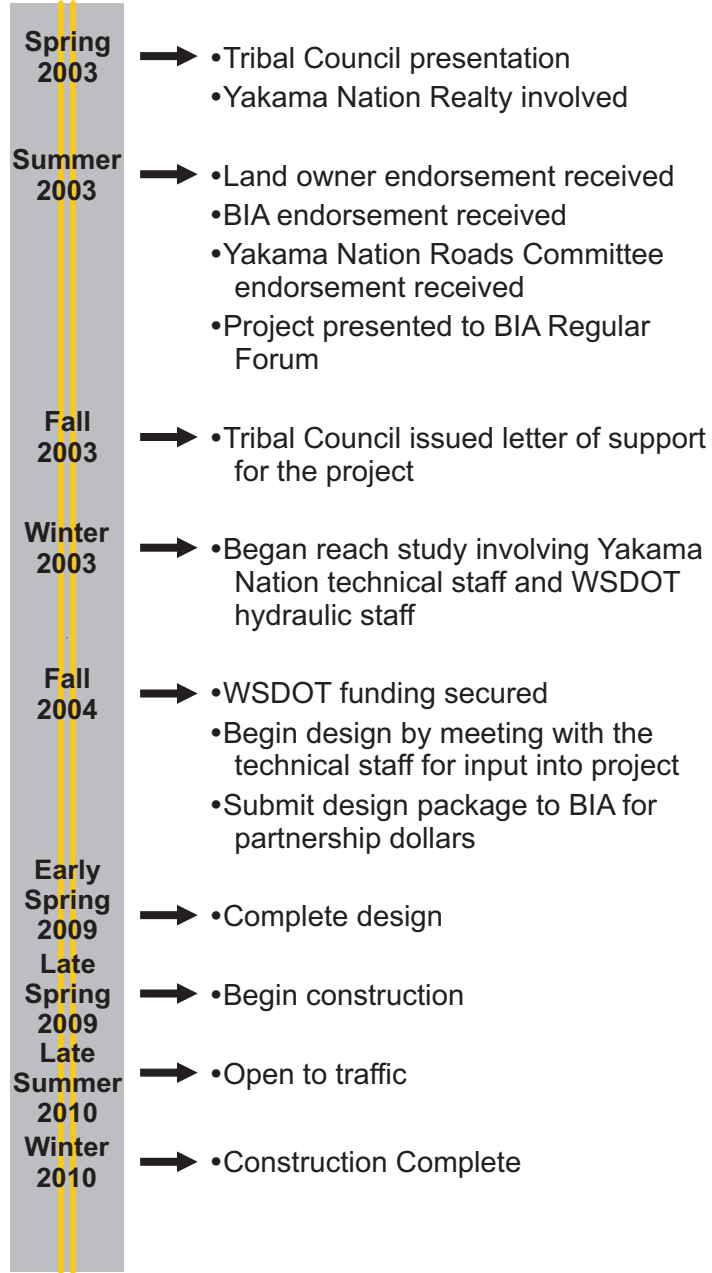
Preliminary design work and environmental studies are now underway.



Existing Satus Creek bridge looking west



Project Timeline



How will this project benefit travelers?

Increasing safety is a priority for WSDOT. Satus Pass is the major connector between the Portland/Vancouver area and the Yakima Valley, and over 1000 trucks a day use this stretch of highway.

The project will make this section of US 97 safer by straightening the substandard curve and reconfiguring two main access points to tribal lands. These improvements will increase the sight distance on US 97 and at the access points.

This project will correct the last section of US 97 in Yakima County with narrow shoulders and substandard curves. Safety will be improved and accidents will be reduced with the construction of a straighter roadway with wider shoulders.

How will impacts to the land be addressed?

WSDOT recognizes the cultural and environmental sensitivity of this area and will address potential impacts. The new bridge will be longer than the current bridge, allowing Satus Creek to flow in a more natural fashion. This will ultimately improve the overall quality of the wildlife habitat in the area.

After the new road is constructed, the old bridge and road will be removed. The land will then be sculpted to a more natural state and replanted with native plants. WSDOT plans to partner with the Yakama Nation to accomplish the restoration work.

How will property rights be affected?

After the new road is constructed, WSDOT's current highway easement will expire in the area where the old road is removed.

How will the project be constructed?

The four pictures below represent only one of several possible highway realignment alternatives. The exact location and length of the bridge will be determined during the environmental analysis of the project. WSDOT will coordinate with the Yakama Nation to determine the most feasible alternative.

